This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (new):   An information processing apparatus utilizing encrypted content in accordance with a usage content, comprising:

receipt means for receiving the content, a usage control policy including a plurality of usage contents each of which defines a predefined way the content is used, and a price tag including a plurality of prices each of which corresponds to the predefined way;

storage means for storing the content, the usage control policy and the price tag;

first generation means for generating a usage control status including a usage content which is selected by the user, a price corresponding to the usage content, and a purchase history of the content based on the usage control policy and the price tag;

setting means for setting a usage history based on usage of the content to the usage control status;

putting means for putting a limit on selecting a usage content based on the purchase history or the usage history when selecting a usage content which is not included in the originally received usage control policy and does not have a corresponding price in the originally received price tag;

second generation means for calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including the accounting price based on the purchase history or usage history; and

sending means for sending the accounting information.

Claim 5 (new):   An information processing method utilizing encrypted content in accordance with a usage content, comprising the steps of:

receiving the content, a usage control policy including a plurality of usage contents each of which defines a predefined way the content is used, and a price tag including a plurality of prices each of which corresponds to the predefined way;

storing the content, the usage control policy and the price tag;

generating a usage control status including a usage content which is selected by the user, a price corresponding to the usage content, and a purchase history of the content based on the usage control policy and the price tag;

setting a usage history based on usage of the content to the usage control status;

putting a limit on selecting a usage content based on the purchase history or the usage history when selecting a usage content which is not included in the originally received usage control policy and does not have a corresponding price in the originally received price tag;

calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including the accounting price based on the purchase history or usage history; and

sending the accounting information.

Claim 6 (new): A distribution medium providing a computer-readable program for utilizing encrypted content in accordance with a usage content in an information processing apparatus, the program comprising the process of:

receiving the content, a usage control policy including a plurality of usage contents each of which defines a predefined way the content is used, and a price tag including a plurality of prices each of which corresponds to the predefined way;

storing the content, the usage control policy and the price tag;

generating a usage control status including a usage content which is selected by the user, a price corresponding to the usage content, and a purchase history of the content based on the usage control policy and the price tag;

setting a usage history based on usage of the content to the usage control status;

putting a limit on selecting a usage content based on the purchase history or the usage history when selecting a usage content which is not included in the originally received usage control policy and does not have a corresponding price in the originally received price tag;

calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including the accounting price based on the purchase history or usage history; and

sending the accounting information.